

Wrecker Service Vehicle Towing / Notification / Inventory

Directive J.4

Revised 1/14/09
Effective 9/95

CALEA Chapter 61

I. POLICY

This policy sets guidelines for the towing, notification, storage, and inventory of vehicles. It shall also set forth guidelines for the management of wrecker services. **(CALEA 61.4.1; 61.4.3)**

It is the policy of the Highway Patrol to remove all vehicles parked, disabled, or left standing on the roadway or main-traveled portion of the highway and vehicles left on the highway right-of-way that present a hazard or potential hazard as authorized by State law. If the towing, storage, or removal of a vehicle is necessary, every effort should be made to ascertain the owner, operator, or legal possessor's preference with regard to towing. The last registered owner of a vehicle towed and/or stored shall be provided with the towing notification information required by State law. **(CALEA 61.2.2; 61.4.3)**

II. VEHICLE REMOVAL PROCEDURES (CALEA 61.4.1; 61.4.3)

Vehicles on the Paved or Main-Traveled Portion of the Highway (CALEA 61.2.2)

- A member who encounters a vehicle parked, disabled from a collision or otherwise left standing on the paved or main-traveled portion of the highway shall:
 - Remove the vehicle to a position off the roadway **(CALEA 61.2.2; 61.4.3)**
 - With consent from the owner, operator, or legal possessor, transport and store the vehicle **(CALEA 61.2.2)**
 - Without consent from the owner, operator, or legal possessor, transport and store the vehicle if the vehicle presents a hazard, a potential hazard or otherwise as authorized by State law **(CALEA 61.2.2; 61.4.3)**
- A member shall permit an objecting owner, operator, or legal possessor to remove a vehicle to a safe position off the roadway, if the driver is competent and licensed to drive the vehicle. A member may transport and store a vehicle, which cannot be safely parked off the roadway as authorized in this directive.

Vehicles off the Paved or Main-Traveled Portion of the Highway (CALEA 61.2.2; 61.4.3)

- A member investigating an accident or collision in which a disabled vehicle is located off the paved or main-traveled portion of the highway may transport